

# ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

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Church Leaders Ask End to Angola Bloodshed

(New York) - A group of 80 prominent Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy and laymen in the US and Canada have appealed to the President and "Christian people of Portugal" for an end to the bloodshed in Angola.

An open letter expressed their concern that the situation in the West African territory "threatens to explode into a war of extermination between Portuguese and Africans".

The writers urged the President to set up a consultation of representatives of his government and Angolan leaders "to seek a reasonable solution" to end the indiscriminate killings.

The letter was sponsored by the Africa Committee of the National Council of Churches (USA) and the Africa Committee of the Catholic Association for International Peace. Recent reports received by the NCC's Africa Committee indicate that at least 1,000 whites and 8,000 Angolans have been killed to date in rebel attacks and government reprisals.

Signers included Dr. Robert Goheen, president of Princeton University; Edward Skillen, editor of The Commonweal, the influential Roman Catholic publication; the Rev. W.J. Gallagher, general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches; Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk (chief executive) of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, and various other prominent clergy and laymen.







An official of the US National Council said that the original impetus for the letter had come from Christian missionaries in Angola who "were anxious that nothing was being done" to halt the violence.

The letter said changes in the Portuguese government's policy in Angola "must incorporate the desires of the Africans themselves, including especially a rapidly increasing participation in the processes of government".

In a parallel, but separate, move, a group of Canadian churchmen representing the country's major denominations last week urged the Canadian government to use its influence to bring "an immediate end to the excessive punitive actions by the Portuguese government in Angola".

The group said the Canadian government should call upon the Portuguese to guarantee the African "fundamental human rights and prepare him for full participation in all the affairs of his country".

In England, the Council of Churches of Coventry unanimously adopted a resolution expressing its deep concern and alarm at conditions and asking the British government "to press at all levels, particularly in the Council of the United Nations, for the legitimate right of the people of Angola to self-determination; for the people of Angola to be allowed to move swiftly, but with adequate preparation, to a form of government in which persons of whatever racial background shall have their rightful place; and for a respect in Angola for the rule of law".

The resolution was forwarded to the British Foreign Office.

The United Nations Security Council ended its four-day debate last week on the Angola situation by adopting the Afro-Asian resolution which invites Portuguese authorities "to desist forthwith from repressive measures" and further to "give all facilities" to the UN sub-committee of inquiry "to implement its mandate without delay". (See EPS No. 21) EPS, Geneva

#### Episcopalians Plan New Work in Puerto Rico

(San Juan, Puerto Rico) - An island-wide expansion of its programme in Puerto Rico is envisaged by the country's Protestant Episcopal Church.

Bishop A. Ervine Swift of Puerto Rico, has asked denominational authorities for \$1,000,000 to construct a \$250,000 student centre at the University of Puerto Rico and ten new parishes within the next three years. The church at present has 30 parishes on the island with a total of 8,000 members.

An announcement by an official of the church noted that the programme follows in the wake of the controversy involving the island's Roman Catholic hierarchy in the 1960 commonwealth elections. The hierarchy had issued orders to the faithful not to vote for re-election of Governor Luis Munoz-Marin because his Popular Democratic Party was "anti-Christian and anti-Catholic". However, voters defied the edict and Governor Munoz-Marin was re-elected in a landslide victory.

Bishop Swift, himself, noted that "the Roman Catholic Church has given us the opportunity to serve the Puerto Rican people". He added, "We are not fighting the Roman Catholics or trying to steal their congregations. The great opportunity we have is to serve the vast majority of unaffiliated Puerto Ricans, who are nominally Catholics, but have no active allegiance to any spiritual body."

EPS, Geneva





### WCC Will Aid African Students

(Geneva) - A greatly expanded scholarship programme for African students will be undertaken by the World Council of Churches.

Close to 75 students from nearly every African country are expected to receive WCC help starting the 1961-62 academic year. The majority are expected to study in institutions in Europe. Under the current WCC programme 25 African students are receiving aid.

The scholarships will be given both to students studying theology and to those preparing for technical and professional work.

The theology students are expected to require assistance for an average of two years in order to complete basic training to the standard of the London Bachelor's Degree and the Paris Diploma.

The others will be granted scholarships to complete their secondary education followed by "full professional or technical training". The average length of these scholarships is expected to be three years.

Plans for the expanded programme were made at the four-day meeting last week of the Administrative Committee of the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. The Committee designated the next ten years as "an emergency period" for education in Africa.

The Committee also authorized travel subsidies so that 45 European students could take advantage of scholarships in Canadian and US seminaries. Currently it helps thirty. It also approved a plan to name a Scholarship Registrar to the WCC staff.

The WCC currently has applications for scholarships from students from the following African countries: Dahomey, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Togoland, Congo, Mozambique, Republic of South Africa, Bechnanaland, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Kenya, Ethiopia, the United Arab Republic and Madagascar. EPS, Geneva

### Dr. Malik Optimistic About Christian Unity Gains

(Chicago) - "Let Christians really constitute One Body, or at least let them, in perfect charity, come appreciably closer together, and you do not then need to worry at all about the fate of civilization."

This optimistic forecast was made by Dr. Charles H. Malik, former Lebanese ambassador to the United States and the United Nations and prominent Orthodox layman, in a commencement address to graduates of Chicago Theological Seminary, (USA), which awarded him an honorary degree.

Dr. Malik, currently a visiting professor at American University in Washington, DC, viewed "the diverse movements for church unity" as a source of encouragement.

"The Protestants appear to be getting closer together", he said, "and I consider the decision of the Presbyterians last month to seek unity with three other Protestant groups as an historic decision". (See EPS No. 21)

Dr. Malik noted that Pope John's decision to call the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council to discuss unity "testified to a new spirit animating Rome today".





"The Orthodox all over thirst for unity and communion", he continued, "and the Russian Orthodox Church's recent decision to join the World Council of Churches must be interpreted as a sincere expression of this thirst..."

Deploing deterministic theories of history which omit "the freedom of man and the mystery of God", Dr. Malik maintained that "the renewal of Western civilization is guaranteed so long as Jesus Christ remains at its heart".

But, he warned: "Let it forsake Him, and forthwith it dooms itself".

"He who is living and not only thinking and philosophizing in this age certainly must feel that things are passionately straining towards an event to come.

"A day of judgment is at hand. We should never expect anything less than the face of God Himself, renewing and replenishing the face of the earth..."

EPS, Geneva

#### Medical Association "Pressure" on Church Charged

(Chicago) - The American Medical Association has been accused of directing a "highly organized pressure campaign" against the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA.

The charge was made in the current issue of The Christian Century, non-denominational Protestant weekly published here, although Presbyterian officials in Philadelphia were quick to deny that the General Assembly had yielded to any pressures.

The magazine claimed that the AMA "lobby" had exerted such pressure on commissioners attending the recent General Assembly in Buffalo, New York, that they failed to adopt a resolution supporting medical care to the aged under the US Social Security system - a proposal which the AMA regards as a major step toward "socialized medicine".

Accusing the AMA of "betrayal" and "misuse of the truth", The Christian Century contended that adoption of the resolution had been forecast since it was expected the United Presbyterians would follow the lead of the General Board of the National Council of Churches (USA).

However, the magazine insisted, commissioners to the Buffalo assembly received an AMA "packet" containing literature attacking the proposal. Several also reportedly received letters from physicians in their home towns urging them to vote against the resolution.

As a result of these alleged pressures, The Christian Century claimed, the General Assembly yielded "to a powerful pressure group" and adopted a "pallid and weak proposal".

Denying the charge, the Rev. Frank Heinze, director of the Presbyterian Office of Information, maintained that the Buffalo meeting was "a free and representative assembly". "All the facts on the issue were presented", he said, "and, by a free vote, the delegates decided".

The charge was also disputed by Clifford Earle, secretary of the denomination's Department of Church and Society, which originally proposed the resolution on care for the aged. He said the resolution was adopted almost exactly as it had been reported to the floor, and that it specifically noted that the recommendations "neither support nor oppose proposals for the extension of Social Security to provide medical care for the aging".

EPS, Geneva







### Dr. Gough Says Anglicans Must Define Position on Union

(Sydney) - Dr. Hugh Rowland Gough, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia, has expressed the belief that the Church of England has reached the stage where it must decide its position with regard to union with other churches.

Dr. Gough made the observation at a meeting of the Provincial Synod of New South Wales, which was called at the request of Dr. Arabindo Nath Mukerjee, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon.

Dr. Mukerjee had sought to determine the attitude of leaders of the Anglican Communion should a proposal for a new United Church of North India and Pakistan be ratified. The United Church would be composed of the Anglicans, Methodists, United Church of India, Church of the Brethren, Disciples of Christ, and congregations associated with Baptist missionary societies. The governing bodies of these groups have already given "general approval" to the merger proposal.

Contending that the Synod's decision regarding the projected union should be made against the background of the worldwide unity movement, Dr. Gough noted that some church leaders believe it would be a severe setback to the ecumenical movement if recognition were withheld, while others argue that union would mean the end of the Anglican Communion.

"Whether we agree with one or neither of these extreme views", the Archbishop declared, "it is obvious that the Church of England has come to a stage on the road toward reunion where she must make up her mind whether she will go forward or turn back".

At the same time, Dr. Gough warned against a premature union of the churches of Australia because it would lead to greater disunity and the formation of splinter groups.

Insisting that "true unity" cannot be imposed upon Christians either by their own leaders or by "outside bodies" such as the World Council of Churches, the Archbishop remarked: "As long as the World Council stands for consultation, conference and cooperation, it must be given our unbounded support. But if and when these take second place to control, it forfeits that right."

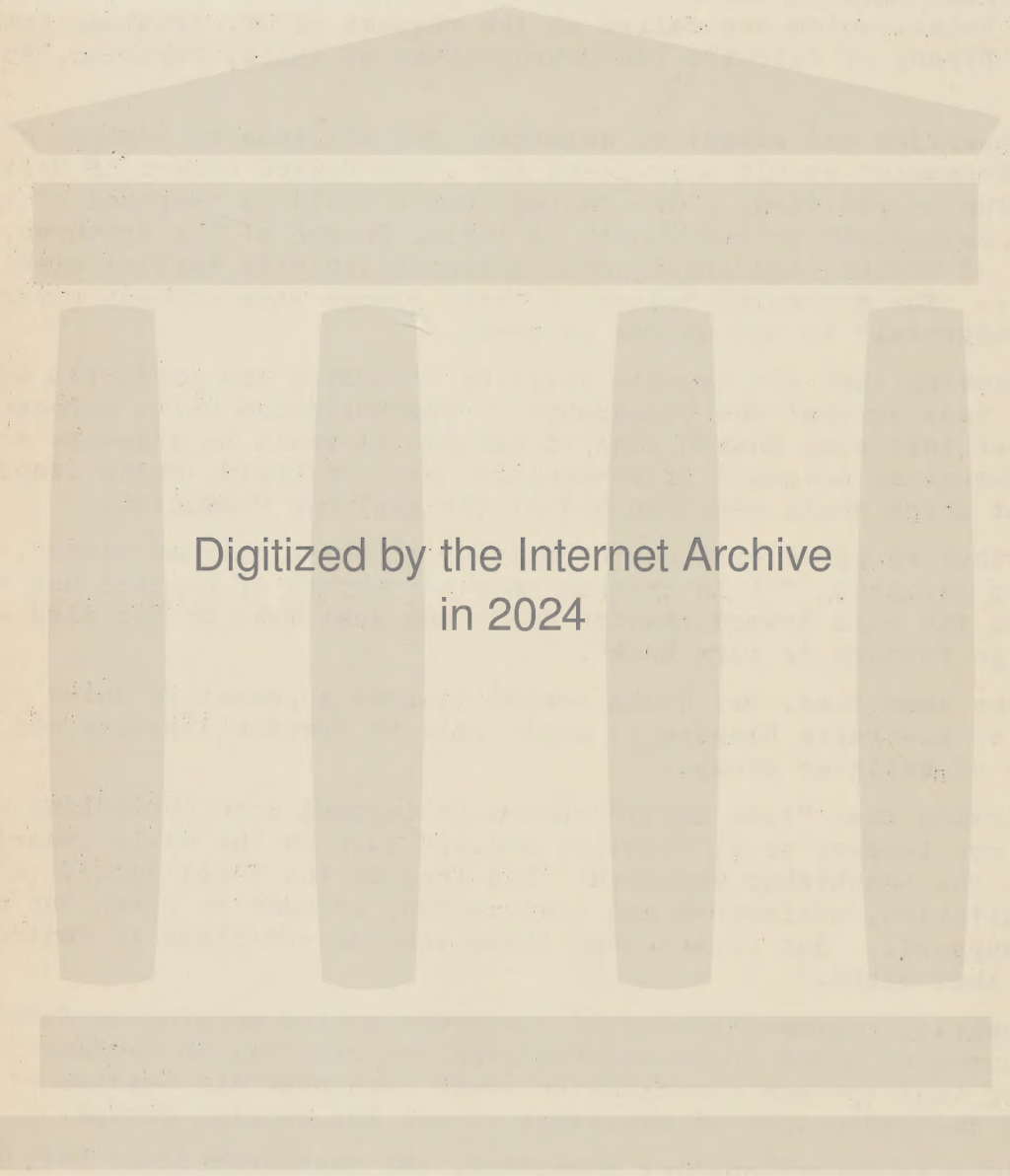
Meanwhile, representatives of the seven bodies merging to form the United Church of North India and Pakistan met recently in Serhampore, India, and agreed that the new denomination would recognize the baptism of communicants and the ordination of ministers of all the merging groups.

Meeting as a continuation committee, the representatives affirmed that "the uniting churches are committed to the principle of the Sacrament of Baptism as unrepeatable in the lifetime of any particular person". It said further that all ministers of the bodies involved in the merger "are committed to God that each may receive from Him such gifts of grace and authority as He may in His love and wisdom see to be needful". EPS, Geneva

### Catholic Attitude Toward WCC Assembly Under Study

(Vatican City) - What position should Roman Catholics in India adopt toward the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which will be held in New Delhi, November 18 - December 6?





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Undisclosed recommendations reached by the Indian hierarchy regarding that question will be presented to high Vatican officials by Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, during his current visit here.

Prior to leaving India, Cardinal Gracias wrote an article for The Examiner, a Bombay Catholic periodical, in which he stated that one of his most important engagements here would be with Augustin Cardinal Bea, head of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity.

Cardinal Gracias noted that Catholic theologians in many countries have become more acutely aware of deficiencies in their approach to non-Catholic Christians. "Catholic theologians, with some notable exceptions, have as a rule been very negative and polemical in their approach, especially to Protestants", he wrote.

Observing that many Protestants have an extremely inadequate comprehension of Catholic teaching, Cardinal Gracias attributed this fact to an "aloof" attitude on the part of Catholics in the past. He said many Indian priests believe that this position causes a loss of "opportunities for a fruitful apostolate".

EPS, Geneva

#### Reformed Church in America Postpones Action on Merger Proposals

(Buck Hill Falls) - The General Synod of the 219,770-member Reformed Church in America has gone on record as not being ready "at this time to commit itself" on proposals to unite with other Protestant bodies.

Accepting the "no action" recommendation of its Committee on Overtures, the synod voted to postpone a proposal to start negotiations aimed at eventual merger with the United Presbyterian Church in the USA and/or the Presbyterian Church in the US (Southern).

It also took a similar action on a proposal that the Reformed Church discuss union with the United Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, the Protestant Episcopal Church and the United Church of Christ.

Merger of these four denominations was originally suggested by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, United Presbyterian stated clerk (chief executive), as a first step toward a more inclusive Christian witness. The United Presbyterian General Assembly recently approved the proposal to discuss possible mergers with these bodies. (See EPS No. 21)

While the General Synod withheld action at this time, it instructed its stated clerk and executive committee to hold informal conversations with representatives of the United Presbyterian and Southern Presbyterian churches.

EPS, Geneva

#### United Church-Presbyterian Merger in Canada Called For

(Toronto) - A resolution calling for organic union with the Presbyterian Church in Canada was adopted by delegates from more than 600 churches attending the annual meeting of the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada.

The resolution urged the General Council of the United Church formally to invite the Presbyterians to consider merger. Such a union would heal the breach created in 1925 when the United Church was formed by Methodists, Congregationalists and some Presbyterians. The "continuing Presbyterians", who remained outside the union, later formed the Presbyterian Church in Canada.







Initial reaction to the resolution was expressed by Dr. Robert Lennox of Montreal, moderator of the last Presbyterian General Assembly, who said any union proposal would have to go before the denomination's Church Relations Committee for study.

"There is more that unites the non-Roman churches than divides them", Dr. Lennox said. "Certainly the matter of disunity of the churches is something of paramount concern to all denominations."

The Rev. Ernest Marshall Howse of Toronto, chairman of the Toronto Conference committee which drew up the resolution, noted that the United and Presbyterian churches have basically the same doctrine and administration, and that such a merger would eliminate duplication of effort in training, administration and services.

"The challenges facing Canada today are too great for harmful divisions", Dr. Howse said.

The Toronto Conference, one of 12 geographical areas into which the United Church is divided, represents more than one-third of the denomination's membership, which has been set at more than 1,000,000. The Presbyterian Church has close to 200,000 members.

In Woodstock, Ontario, Dr. Ernest E. Long, secretary of the United Church's General Council, told delegates attending the annual meeting of the London Conference that the denomination is ready to accept with qualification the office of bishop in any merger with the Anglican Church of Canada.

Pointing out that bishops serve the useful function of representing unity, Dr. Long noted, however, that the United Church would not subscribe to the view that a bishop must ordain men to the ministry.

Dr. Long, a member of the Ecumenical Committee which has been working towards union with other denominations since 1943, said his denomination was trying to "share the best in ours with the best in other churches".

Labelling divisions among the churches "a betrayal, a real sin", Dr. Long said they were also wasteful because of the rival congregations they created.

The United Church is currently discussing possible mergers with representatives of the Anglican, Disciples of Christ and the Evangelical United Brethren churches.

EPS, Geneva

### Soviet Believers Classified as "Fanatics" and "Formalists"

(Moscow) - Soviet citizens who persist in holding religious beliefs have now been divided into two classes - "fanatics" and "formalists".

The distinction is made in an article appearing in a recent issue of Voprosy Filosofii, a publication of the Philosophical Institute of the Soviet Academy for Science. The article sought to explain the reasons why religion still persists in Russia.

Voprosy Filosofii defines the "fanatics" as an extremely dynamic group, who propagate and defend their convictions. Most of them belong to a sect which is deeply concerned about educating their children in this same spirit, it observed.





The "formalists", on the other hand, include some Christians who are tolerant in their attitude towards atheism and who are beginning to have doubts about their religious heritage, it said. Their behaviour is "inconsistent" because they continue to practise baptism and other religious rites. Among this group, says Voprosy Filosofii, "systematic scientific education" must be started.

A third group, the article says, is "absolutely passive", having no connections with either atheism or Christianity. It expressed the fear that such persons might revert to their old faith under the influence of religious propaganda unless they are given "scientific concepts" in time.

Observing that churches and sects in the Soviet Union are particularly concerned about youth, the article commented: "It must be admitted that the activities of the believers in these groups meet with a certain amount of success, as shown by the number of young people entering theological seminaries."

Further, it said, religion is still a strong force in rural areas where the people still cling to "the old conservative life and faith". It also pointed out that the monasteries and convents are "deeply revered by the people" and are a factor in the retention of religious faith in the Soviet Union.

The serious deficiencies in "scientific" atheistic education are exploited by the churches in order to win the allegiance of the people, the article concluded.

EPS, Geneva

### Nothing to Receive?

(Rome) - The Osservatore Romano, official Vatican publication, which has published several articles in favour of ecumenical contacts, has now published a text signed by Signor Luigi Ciappi which reveals a very different point of view about the problems of Christian unity.

"By virtue of its unbroken links of unity with its head 'in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Col. 2: 3), the Catholic Church has everything to give and nothing to receive", he wrote.

"The deposit of divine truth within it, and its means of sanctification, are unique and complete. It is therefore impossible", he continued, "to pray or to work for Christian unity except in the sense that the separated brethren should return to their former fellowship in the faith, i.e. to the mother-Church".

EPS, Geneva

### Catholics Oppose New Kerala School Edict

(Trivandrum, India) - An announcement by the Kerala government that only public schools will be open in the state next year has brought a strong protest from the Catholic Congress in the Indian State.

The Congress called upon state officials either to allow the constitutional rights of private school operation or to resign their posts. It pointed out that the anti-private school policy was adopted long after budgetary provisions were made for both national and private schools. Indian law requires government support of private schools through subsidies.





Observers have interpreted the new educational policy as an indication that Kerala's present coalition government, which succeeded a Communist government voted out of office last year, is switching to the left.

More than 50 percent of the state's 7,000 private schools are Roman Catholic. The remainder are operated by the Hindu Nair community, Muslims and other private managers.

EPS, Geneva

#### Churches Must "Humanize" Immigration Laws, US Expert Says

(Leysin, Switzerland) - The population explosion must be met by birth control and rapid economic development, Dr. Dudley Kirk, demographics director of the Population Council, New York, has told 200 church leaders, government representatives and consultants from inter-governmental agencies attending an international conference on migration here.

Dr. Kirk gave the keynote address to the conference which has been called by the World Council of Churches after three years of study and preparation to consider the churches' responsibilities in the field of international migration.

He said that the world is undergoing two revolutions - one a revolution of expectation, and the other a biological revolution. New opportunities were opening up everywhere and this might bring about a swarming of people in Asia, Africa and Latin America similar to past migratory movements from Europe.

The biological revolution is prolonging the expectation of life and is affecting the two billion people of Asia.

"Where are the empty lands which these people can go to that are suitable for profitable agriculture?" Dr. Kirk asked. "They do not exist and tensions brought about by overpopulation will have to be faced at home and not drawn off by movements to other countries."

He believed, however, that migrations would continue in the future because these served important purposes. For instance, they solved the population problem of some small areas such as Puerto Rico, Malta, and similar places. Also they afforded an inter-change of skills essential for rapid economic development.

The Latin American countries have the problem of obtaining skilled immigrants to keep up with their burgeoning population. Africa's problem is how to deal with a highly mobile people faced by the new political divisions of the emergent nations.

"The churches must humanize as far as they can the political legislation affecting migrants and see that there is no discrimination because of race, language, or creed", he said.

Dr. Clarence Senior, professor of sociology at Brooklyn College, New York, told the conference that voluntary migration is an essential factor in economic advance because it benefits the migrant himself, the economy of the receiving country and that of the sending community.

"Much migration causes human suffering as well as bringing economic advancement", Professor Senior said. "However, the friction, dislocation and suffering which often accompany migration can be reduced by governmental and voluntary social action.





"Such institutions as churches, labour unions, community centres and school systems all have an important role to play in this process." He added that "customary ways of making a living, keeping house, raising children, visiting neighbours, playing and worshipping - they all, and all at one time, may all be called into question."

In a later session churchmen were advised to look into the immigration laws of the "empty" or under-populated countries, and see what they can do to persuade governments to let the hungry people of Asia enter them.

Dr. F.S. Chandrasekhar, director of the Indian Institute for Population Studies, in an exceptionally challenging address, told the conference that Australia would be happier and more secure if she would admit Asian immigrants on the same basis as she does Europeans. He argued that if Australia admitted even 100 families a year from Asia it would generate enormous psychological relief.

"The churches, as a body over and above ethnic differences, should be able to raise the status of minorities to wanted instead of rejected groups", he said.

"Whether it is a question of Orientals in Australia or Canada, Negroes in the US, or Jews in Europe, the majority communities should learn to treat the minorities fairly and give them every opportunity for assimilation. Tolerance is not enough. What is needed is acceptance.

"This means the right to vote, to travel, to own a property, to live in an area one can afford, to choose one's occupation, to marry the person one loves, to eat in any public restaurant, and to educate one's children at the school of one's choice."

Dr. Chandrasekhar said it was unfortunate that the relatively empty lands such as Australia, Brazil, Canada and parts of Africa were willing to receive emigrants from Europe, where there was no great pressure of population, but did not welcome Asians, desperately in need of emigration outlets.

He said that the population of the world is increasing at the rate of more than 45,000,000 a year. To halt this trend, Japan had legalized abortions, since the end of World War II, so that today one million abortions, according to official statistics, were performed every year. Family planning had also helped to cut the Japanese birthrate from 34 per thousand in 1947 to 17 per thousand in 1957.

Again India had opened nearly two thousand birth control clinics during the last ten years. It was possible that she might halve her birthrate in the next decade. Voluntary agencies were also promoting birth control in Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

The conference also heard addresses from such speakers as Mr. Felix Schnyder, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; the Hon. Phyllis Allfrey, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs in the West Indies; Mr. Henry Makulu, assistant director of the World Council's Ecumenical Institute, Bossey; Mr. Marcus Daly, director of ICEM and the prominent German Church leader, Dr. Martin Niemöller of Hessen-Nassau.

Mr. Schnyder said that further progress in helping refugees to emigrate may well largely depend upon the help given by the churches and voluntary agencies in enabling them to take full advantage of the available opportunities.



Dr. Niemöller told the delegates that although migration might lead to a greater variety of Christian churches in the countries of immigration, the unity of the church would depend upon their willingness to fulfil together the mission and service which Christ had entrusted to them.

Taking part in the conference are seven delegates from Africa, seven from Asia, seven from Latin America, 28 from North America, and 35 from Europe. Four churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, which are not members of the World Council have sent observers. Officials from the governments of the USA, Greece, the West Indies, Switzerland, Canada, the Netherlands and Australia are present as well as others from the UNHCR, ICEM and the International Labour Office. EPS, Geneva

#### Bishop of Manchester Lauds Billy Graham Crusade

(Manchester) - Billy Graham's three-week North of England Crusade has won the endorsement of the Anglican Bishop of Manchester, the Rt. Rev. W.D.L. Greer.

In his presidential address to the Diocesan Conference, Bishop Greer said he witnessed a vivid and straightforward presentation of the Gospel at the meetings. "No church person going to the Crusade will receive anything but good", he maintained.

The Church Times, an Anglo-Catholic journal, expressed the hope that the Church of England will regard the Crusade "as a salutary reminder of its own duty, sometimes neglected, to go out with authority in this country to preach the Gospel".

The American evangelist was unable to appear personally at the opening meetings because of a throat infection. When he was able to appear, some 38,500 turned out to hear him speak. More than 1,500 went forward for counselling. Of the 3,650 people who sought counselling during the first week, 80 percent reportedly made a "decision for Christ" for the first time.

The Manchester Crusade will continue through June 17, after which Dr. Graham is scheduled to hold rallies in Glasgow, Scotland, and in Belfast, Northern Ireland. EPS, Geneva

#### In Brief

The Methodist Church (USA) has renewed a programme to provide associate pastors from overseas Methodist churches for a five-month period in churches across the nation. The programme was first started in 1958 when 15 overseas ministers came to the US from Africa, Asia and South America. Following their pastoral work they studied at Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N.J.

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About two-thirds of the 51 members of the new Togo national legislature are Roman Catholics, despite the fact that less than 20 percent of the new African country's population is Catholic. A survey disclosed 32 Catholics, ten Protestants, five Muslims and four pagans form the legislature.

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Dr. Charles W. Ranson, of New York, general director of the International Missionary Council's Theological Education Fund, has been installed as president of the Methodist Church of Ireland. Dr. Ranson is the first head of the Church whose ministry has been exercised entirely outside Ireland. He will continue serving as director of the IMC fund. EPS, Geneva